

NORTH - SOUTH KOREA *Red Cross Talks*

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Information Bulletin of the CC of the DPRK Red Cross Society

The 23rd Sitting of Preliminary Talks between North and South Korean Red Cross Societies Held

The 23rd sitting of the preliminary talks between the north and south Korean Red Cross societies was held in Panmunjom on July 19.

At the meeting held in an atmosphere of understanding and supplementing each others' opinions, the two sides reached a complete agreement on the question concerning the composition of the delegations to the full-dress talks, thus advancing the talks another big step forward.

At the meeting the two sides agreed to fixing at around 70 the number of suites among those who are to accompany each delegation to the full-dress talks, and increasing or reducing them according to the need.

At the meeting the south

Korean side expressed understanding for the importance and purport of the proposal of letting advisers accompany the delegations to cooperate in the work of the delegations to the full-dress talks, which had been put forward by our side at the 22nd sitting of the preliminary talks, and it accepted it. As a result, an agreement was reached on choosing 7 or less advisers who will accompany each delegation to cooperate in its work.

This brought the discussion of the question concerning the composition of the delegations to the full-dress talks to a close. After a recess of 30 minutes both sides confirmed an accord on the composition of the delegations to the full-dress talks. The

delegates of both sides hailed with loud applause the success in crossing another ridge in their endeavour to fulfil the tasks of the preliminary talks.

Then the meeting entered the discussion of other procedural matters of the full-dress talks, the last item on the agenda of the preliminary talks.

Kim Tae Hui, head of the delegation of the DPRK Red Cross Society, clarified the stand of his delegation, and suggested the points to be agreed upon between the two sides.

Among the points our side proposed to discuss as other procedural matters of the full-dress talks are the questions of the first session of the full-dress talks, personal

safety of the delegations and press corps, their traffic formalities, the duration of their stay and schedule of talks, the insignia of the delegations and the press corps, the technical equipment and personal effects to be carried by them, the ensuring of their traffic, the ensuring of their communications between the north and the south, their activities in the areas going beyond the bounds of the district where meeting halls are located, the facilities and devices of the meeting halls, the recording of meetings, whether the meetings should be opened to the public or not, reporting about the meetings, forms of working the meetings, the drafting and publication of the texts of agreement, offering conveniences to the delegations and press corps and their expenses and other matters.

Referring to the basic stand and questions of principle to be maintained in the discussion of other procedural matters of the full-dress talks, the head of the delegation of our side held that the two sides should discuss and settle these matters from the stand and principle of one side inviting the other side, guided by the spirit of the joint statement of the north and the south. It is not only the duty incumbent on us the same nation but also a work of weighty importance in putting into effect the matters agreed upon in the paragraphs of the joint statement that the two sides should show all sincerity in receiving the delegation and the press corps of the other side and ensure their personal safety with a sense of responsi-

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The agreed documents on the composition of the delegations to the full-dress talks are exchanged between the delegates of both sides at the 23rd sitting of the preliminary talks

The Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The DPRK Red Cross Society was founded on October 8, 1946 immediately after the liberation on the personal initiative of the great Leader of the Korean people Comrade Kim Il Sung and under his concern. It inherited the brilliant revolutionary tradition he himself had established in the arduous days of the anti-Japanese armed struggle by creating the pattern of communist humanitarianism and showing an example in this respect.

The DPRK Red Cross Society is a voluntary mass organization aiming at making contributions to carrying into practice the lofty humanitarian policies of the DPRK Government, which values life and health of mankind before anything else and strives to extricate the people from all manner of misfortunes

and sufferings.

The mission of the DPRK Red Cross Society is to protect life and health of the people and organize relief work for all the people affected by natural disasters, social calamities and war, in the humanitarian spirit, in order to alleviate their misfortunes and sufferings and thus contribute to promoting the wellbeing of the people.

Our Red Cross Society strives to render assistance, material and spiritual, to our compatriots in south Korea for mitigation of their misfortunes and tribulations caused by the U.S. imperialist occupation and to the compatriots in Japan and other foreign countries for stabilization of their life and, at the same time, it makes efforts to defend their human

rights, the right to free travel to their homeland and other democratic, national rights.

The DPRK Red Cross Society, maintaining close relations with all National Red Cross Societies and international Red Cross organizations, endeavours to preserve world peace, develop the relations of friendship and co-operation with other peoples and take part in the international relief work, and struggles against the war policy and inhumane atrocities of the imperialists and their machinations for ideological and cultural infiltration under the guise of bourgeois humanitarianism.

The DPRK Red Cross Society has in its central organ the Organizational and Planning Department, Mass Hygienic Department, Inter-

national Affairs Department, Culture and Propaganda Department, Information Department and Junior Red Cross Department, etc., and it has Red Cross organizations of various levels in provinces, cities, counties (districts), *ris* and fishing villages.

It has a membership of over 1,500,000 (junior members included).

Its financial sources are membership due, contribution and government subsidy.

Our Red Cross Society organizes and carries on its work in accordance with its own rule, keeping close ties with the state public health institutions and securing co-operation of all organs, factories, enterprises, schools and other social organizations.

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ability and provide best conveniences for their activities from the stand of one side inviting the other side, he declared.

Dwelling on the question concerning the first session of the full-dress talks, he solemnly proposed to hold it in Pyongyang first. He also proposed to invite representatives of political parties and public organisations of the north and south to attend the first sessions to be held in Pyongyang and Seoul respectively.

On the question of guaranteeing the safety of the delegations and the press corps, he proposed that both sides get the respective authorities concerned to issue statements to the effect that they will guarantee in a responsible manner the safety and security of activities of the personnel of the other side entering their respective areas for the full-dress talks and guarantee the personal inviolability of the personnel of the other side and the inviolability of their luggage intended for the talks and press activities.

On the formalities of travel of the delegations and press corps between the north and the south, our side proposed that the lists of the names of the personnel travelling between the north and the

south be exchanged beforehand, each person carry with him credential or identification card issued by the central committee of the Red Cross of his side and Panmunjom be chosen as the spot of passage and suggested to the other side that the duration of stay of the delegations and press corps in the area of the other side should be 4 to 6 days in principle and the detailed itinerary of stay and the schedule of talks be adopted each time through consultation and that the personnel of each side should abide by the order and guide of the other side while staying in its area.

On the insignia of the delegations and the press corps, he proposed that the members of each delegation be made to wear the Red Cross badges of their side and the members of the press corps wear the Red Cross badges of their side and arm bands inscribed with "Press" on one-colour cloth as each side sees fit, and only the Red Cross flags be attached to the means of transportation.

He said that both sides should let the delegations and press corps freely carry with them portable technical equipment and personal belongings necessary for their work and activities and provide convenient and safe

routes and means of travel to the personnel of the other side entering their areas.

On the question of guaranteeing the communications of the delegations and press corps between the north and the south, he proposed that as many telephone lines as possible be linked, first of all, at Panmunjom between the north and the south, and double circuits be provided between the central bodies of the north and south Red Cross societies and double circuits of direct telephone service be furnished to link the delegation operating in the area of the other side and its central body, and the press corps be satisfactorily ensured technical conditions necessary for their press activities, including telephone links for contacting the appropriate organs of their respective sides, and that a consultative meeting of technical and working personnel of the two sides be held for discussing the technical and business-like problems concerning communications.

The head of the delegation of our side also suggested that various inspections outside the districts of the conference halls should be arranged for the members of the delegations and press corps, the facilities and devices of the conference halls

be so adjusted as to be convenient for the steering of the talks in accordance with the agreed provisions, both sides arranging their respective conference halls, and the proceedings of the meetings be recorded by each side respectively with tape-recorders and shorthand.

He proposed that each meeting be reported respectively and a sufficient number of pressmen be enlisted for the successful coverage of the talks and the reports be so made as to help towards the successful progress of the talks and the deepening of trust and understanding between the north and the south.

He proposed that the drafting and publication of the texts of agreement be conducted jointly by the two sides.

Touching upon the question of offering conveniences to the delegations and press corps and their expenses, the head of the delegation of our side stressed that each side should guarantee all conveniences such as boarding, transport, communications and medical care to the personnel of the other side during their stay in its area. He declared that the DPRK Red Cross Society would fully bear the expenses

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Our Proposal for a Confederation of North and South Korea Is Most Realistic One to Promote Independent Peaceful Reunification of Country

The July 4 joint statement of the north and south was the harbinger of the independent peaceful reunification of Korea. Following its announcement, our land of three thousand-*ri* boiled with joy and emotion and the hearts of all the north and south Korean people beat high with the ardent hope of national reunification.

The talks now in progress between the north and south Korean Red Cross societies since last September, made a breach in the artificial barrier which remained intact for 26 years, thus paving the way for further north-south dialogue and laying a stepping stone for the independent peaceful reunification of the country. The joint statement on the north-south high-level talks issued at such a juncture is a breakthrough to the independent peaceful reunification.

The announcement of the north-south joint statement and the subsequent creation of an atmosphere of national rapprochement are, indeed, a historic jubilee for our fellow countrymen who have been so anxious to see national reunification for 27 years of territorial division and national suffering characterized by mistrust and misunderstanding, confrontation and antagonism.

That is why all the people in north and south Korea support and hail the joint statement so enthusiastically. The joint statement was made public on the basis of the three principles laid down by the great Leader of the Korean people Comrade Kim Il Sung who is more concerned than anyone else at the tragic territorial partition and national division.

This irrefutably proves the correctness and vitality of the policy of independent national reunification by peaceful means he has proposed time and again ever since the liberation of our country.

The Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK Government have consistently maintained that our country should be reunified by way of establishing a unified central

government through north-south general elections to be held on democratic principles, without foreign interference after the withdrawal of all foreign troops from south Korea.

This is a most realistic, essential means for national reunification and a fair proposal acceptable to all.

However, in view of the fact that the south Korean authorities has not yet accepted the proposal for national reunification through free north-south general elections, we have advanced a proposal on several occasions to establish a Confederation of north and south Korea as an interim step to begin with the settlement of urgent problems of the nation.

Comrade Kim Il Sung, the great Leader of the Korean people, pointed out:

"We have proposed to set up a Confederation of north and south Korea as a transitional step to tackle urgent, immediate problems of common concern for the nation and gradually go over to complete reunification, if the free general elections throughout north and south Korea cannot be held right now." ("Answers to the Questions Raised by Foreign Journalists," Eng. ed., p. 107.)

The Confederation proposed by the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK Government envisages the formation of a Supreme National Committee composed of representatives of the two governments, whose main function will be to co-ordinate the economic and cultural development of north and south Korea in a unified way, while retaining the existing political systems in north and south Korea and maintaining the independent activities of the two governments for the time being.

Our proposal is that the Supreme National Committee be formed with the same number of representatives on both sides appointed by the two governments so that they may participate in the settlement of problems with equal rights.

This is a reasonable step

which will enable either side to solve any question without impairing its interests since the different political systems will be retained in north and south Korea and independent activities maintained by the two governments.

It goes without saying that what duty and role are to be assumed by the proposed Confederation should be specifically defined on a mutual agreement between the two sides.

We consider that the Confederation, if established, will basically co-ordinate and develop the economy and culture of north and south Korea in a unified way and effect economic and cultural cooperation and interchange between the north and south, which are most badly needed, so as to promote an independent, co-ordinated development of the national economy.

We also consider that a national body to be organized on the establishment of the Confederation shall represent and defend the common interests of north and south Korean people in its relations with foreign countries. For this purpose, the Supreme National Committee may, where necessary and on the consent of the two governments, carry out external activities in the capacity of the representative of the whole of Korea and may take joint actions to safeguard the security of the country and the people against foreign aggression by uniting the forces of the entire people in north and south Korea.

The Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK Government put forward the proposal for establishment of a Confederation of north and south Korea, in full consideration of the objective reality of the country and out of the genuine desire to restore the severed national bonds between the north and south.

We want to solve urgent national problems transcending the differences of ideology, ideal and system. Therefore, we have repeatedly asked the south Korean authorities to accept our proposal for the establishment of the Confederation of north and

south Korea.

The Confederation is not a unified coalition government, and its establishment does not mean complete national reunification. But it will render it possible to discuss and solve economic and cultural problems to the advantage of our nation and thus restore and strengthen the disconnected national ties of our people.

Moreover, the establishment of the Confederation will help to save south Korea from the economic catastrophe and improve the wretched living conditions of the south Korean people, by guaranteeing economic and cultural interchanges and mutual cooperation between north and south Korea.

Nor is that all. The establishment of the Confederation will provide the north and south Korean people with a highly favourable opportunity to deepen mutual understanding, cooperation and solidarity and defend the national interests more effectively and will help to further improve the position of our country and enhance its prestige in the international arena.

In this way the distrust and misunderstanding, confrontation and antagonism which have existed for a long time between the north and south will gradually give way to closer understanding and cooperation and, further, will bring the different ideologies and ideals closer together. This will culminate in great national unity.

Then, we will set up a unified government through free north-south general elections and accomplish the great task of national reunification.

Now that the north-south joint statement was issued and the atmosphere of national rapprochement between north and south Korea is increasing, the establishment of the Confederation to promote national reunification is possible and imperative. Therefore, the north and south should join efforts to accelerate the fulfilment of the supreme national task—the independent peaceful reunification of the country.

Panmunjom (2)

A few minutes' walk along the highway leading to Seoul from the place where the Armistice Agreement was signed brings you to a bridge across a small river, the Sachon-gang, a tributary to the Rimjin-gang that flows through the central part of this country. This is Panmun Bridge.

From here, you can see "Military Demarcation Line" markers. They have been weathered for a long period of time, and the bottom of their supports have got half-rotten, almost falling to the ground.

There are as many as 1,292 MDL markers set up by the U.S. imperialist aggressors along the 240 km-long Demarcation Line running from west to east, and they cut the country into the north and south. The bridge itself has been divided into two parts by the cursed Demarcation Line.

It had been a bridge of blood ties linking the hearts of our fellow countrymen who ceaselessly crossed it from time immemorial.

Every day lots of people would cross the bridge travelling to and from the north and the south, to visit their home places and those near and dear to them.

The bridge, however, is now deserted.

It lies across the Sachon-gang, linking the northern and southern parts of the country, just as it did 20 years ago, but the people have had no access to it ever since.

People in the south call it a "forbidden bridge."

Here is a heartrending story: Those who had been forced to go to the dark land of the south under the threat

of the U.S. imperialist aggressors during the last war attempted to come back to the north, yearning for their sweet homes in the north. However, they were forbidden to return to their homes of happiness by the U.S. imperialist aggressors who stood in their way. That is why it is called a "forbidden bridge."

Just across the bridge haughty American M.P.s are standing on guard at the check point.

How is it that the Yankee aggressors from across the ocean stand blocking the bridge built up by the sweat and blood of our people and permeated with their warm feelings of kinship?

Aren't they increasing tensions and emitting powder smoke around the Demarcation Line, in order to keep this country divided for ever, which is one and the same nation from the time of our forefathers?

Panmunjom is the court where the enemy are accused and condemned for their crimes.

It is situated at the foot of a hillock near the Sachon-gang. The place covers an oval area of 800 metres around and is also called Conference Area or Joint Security Area.

Right on the Military Demarcation Line there stand six rectangular buildings—a conference hall for the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission where the north-south Red Cross preliminary talks are now held, a lounge, the joint duty officers' rooms of both sides, a recreation hall, and a conference hall for the Military Armistice Commission.

the area of our side.

Concluding his speech on other procedural matters of the full-dress talks, the head of the delegation of our side stressed that inasmuch as the preliminary talks have entered the last stage, the delegation of the DPRK Red Cross Society deemed it necessary to fix the date of the opening of the full-dress talks. And he solemnly proposed to open the first session of the full-dress talks between the north and south Korean Red Cross societies in Pyongyang at 10 a.m. on August 5, 1972.

The south Korean side

In the centre of the MAC meeting hall through which runs the MDL is a long table with a sparkling-five-point-star national flag of the Republic and a U.N. flag on it.

MAC meetings are held around this table.

Turning the armistice into a durable peace is unanimously desired by the Korean people and the peacelovers of the world and solemnly stipulated in the Armistice Agreement.

Armistice was signed in Korea but peace has not come.

The aggressors of U.S. imperialism were brought to their knees to sign the Armistice Agreement. But even before its ink dried they set about firing rifles and guns in their manoeuvres for war and aggression against our side, abusing the emblem of the "U.N." They have brought heavy arms and automatic weapons into the Demilitarized Zone to build up fortified positions there, and perpetrated malignant provocations against our side on the ground, in the air and on the sea almost every day.

The Korean people, however, are a dignified people.

They punished the "Pueblo" and the "EC-121" large spy plane which had been conducting espionage activities in our territorial air and waters. It is here at Panmunjom that they accused the U.S. imperialist aggressors of their acts of aggression and war before the whole world and scathingly condemned them.

Today, the peace-loving peoples of the world join us in condemning the U.S. imperialists who have been trampling under foot the Korean people's aspirations to reunify the country with their own efforts and live in peace.

An American visitor shouted at the GLs of the U.S. imperialist aggressor army standing on the MDL:

"This is not Texas or California. Aggressors, get out of Korea!"

Indeed, Panmunjom is the court where U.S. imperialism is severely condemned before the whole world as the very obstructor of our country's peaceful reunification and disturber of peace in Korea.



The shabby-looking senior member of the enemy side, driven into a corner by the irrefutable charge of the Senior Member of our side at a MAC meeting

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for boarding and meals, transport, communications and press activities, public catering and publications and all other expenses of the delegation, advisors, suites and press corps entering its area for their activities at the talks and press activities. He expressed the readiness of our side to fully and entirely undertake medical treatment in the spirit of noble humanitarianism and warm compatriotic love when personnel of the south Korean side require medical assistance after entering

also suggested the points to be discussed in other procedural matters of the full-dress talks and expressed its stand on them.

The meeting showed that the two sides had many points in common in their views on other procedural matters of the full-dress talks.

The south Korean side agreed in principle particularly to the compatriotic proposal of our side for opening the first session of the full-dress talks at 10 a.m. on August 5. The two sides agreed upon deeply studying the stand of the other sides and

having concrete discussions of this question at the next sitting.

Concluding the meeting, the two sides agreed upon fixing the date of the 24th sitting of the preliminary talks through the permanent telephone liaison offices at Panmunjom.

After the meeting Kim Dok Hyon, deputy head and spokesman, of the delegation of the DPRK Red Cross Society, met with newsmen of the north and the south and briefed them on the course of the meeting which ended with big successes.